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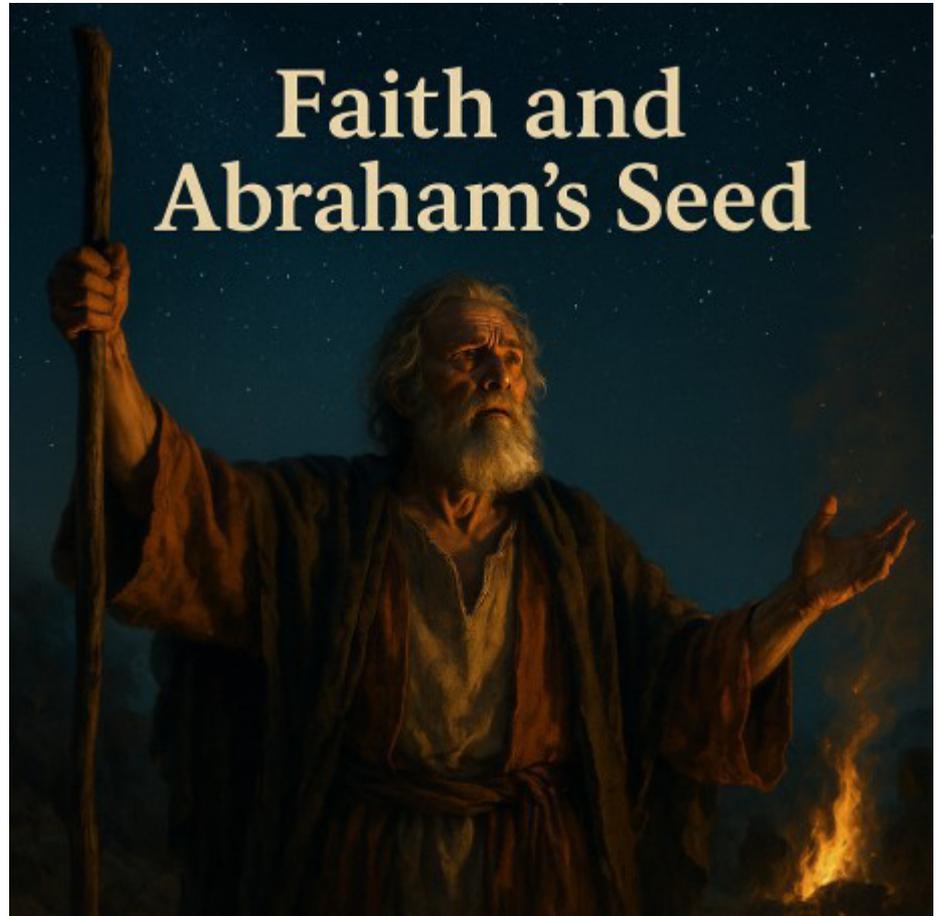
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Faith and Abraham's Seed



By Dan Maines

Faith and Abraham's Seed

Galatians 3:7

Therefore know that only those who are **OF FAITH** are sons of Abraham.

† Paul speaks to Gentiles and Jews alike. The family of Abraham was never meant to be defined by genealogy or bloodline, but by faith. From the beginning, God promised that all nations would be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

Faith is the mark of covenant membership.

† Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). The same pattern stands for all who trust in Christ today. Our identity is not grounded in race, heritage, or nationality, but in faith in the promised Messiah.

† This truth unites every believer from every nation into one household of God (Ephesians 2:19).

† The sons of Abraham are those who follow Abraham's example of trusting God's promises despite circumstances (Hebrews 11:8-10).

† Josephus records that Abraham's blessing came because he trusted God's command, showing the covenant was grounded in faith (Antiquities 1.7, 1.13).

† Philo describes Abraham's righteousness as the reason for God's promises, presenting him as the pattern for all who pursue true wisdom, not only those of Jewish descent (On Abraham 52-54).

† Clement of Rome writes that Abraham was “found faithful, inasmuch as he rendered obedience to the words of God,” underscoring faith as the reason for blessing (1 Clement 31).

† The Epistle of Barnabas repeatedly identifies believers in Christ as the true heirs of the covenant, showing the earliest Christians understood the promise to be fulfilled in the church (Barnabas 6, 13).

Galatians 3:16

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the **PROMISES** made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is **CHRIST**.

† The covenant promise narrows to one Seed, Christ Himself. The true heir of Abraham is not a nation or a political state, but the Messiah.

† All God's **PROMISES**, land, blessing, kingdom, find their fulfillment in Jesus. In Him, Jew and Gentile are gathered as one people. Without Christ there is no inheritance.

† This shows that the ultimate blessing of Abraham is salvation and the Spirit given to all who believe (Galatians 3:14).

† The singular "Seed" underscores that Jesus is the central figure of the entire biblical narrative (Luke 24:44).

† Justin Martyr declares that Christians are the true Israel because they share the faith of Abraham and follow the promised Christ (Dialogue with Trypho 119).

† Irenaeus explains that Abraham's seed is fulfilled in Christ and in those who believe, noting that the covenant was always intended for a worldwide family of faith (Against Heresies 4.21.1-3).

Romans 9:6-8

But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are **NOT** all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are **NOT** the children of God; but the children of the **PROMISE** are counted as the seed.

† Paul answers the objection that God's plan failed because many Israelites rejected Christ. God's promise never depended on physical descent.

† True Israel is defined by God's call and **PROMISE**, not by bloodline. The children of the flesh are not the children of God.

Only those born according to the **PROMISE** through faith in Christ are counted as the seed.

† This principle was already seen when God chose Isaac over Ishmael, showing His purpose of election stands (Genesis 21:12).

† It is those who are born of the Spirit, not of the flesh, who inherit the kingdom (John 3:6-7).

† Tertullian writes that the **PROMISE** to Abraham belongs to Christians, the children of faith, rather than to ethnic Israel alone (An Answer to the Jews 1-2).

† Origen reinforces Paul's teaching that "not all who are of Israel are Israel," showing that the true descendants of Abraham are those who believe in Christ (Commentary on Romans Book 4).

Romans 4:13

For the **PROMISE** that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness **OF FAITH**.

† Abraham's inheritance was never tied to the law of Moses. The law came 430 years later and could not add or annul the covenant.

† The inheritance is global, heir of the world, and it comes only by **FAITH**. This includes Gentiles from every nation who believe in Jesus.

† This confirms that justification is by **FAITH** alone apart from works of the law (Romans 3:28).

† Abraham's **FAITH** looked forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10).

Dispensational Theology Refuted

† Modern dispensational teaching says that the physical nation of Israel retains an unconditional claim to the land no matter their spiritual state. This directly opposes the scriptures.

† The New Covenant is the **PROMISE** fulfilled in Christ for the whole world. To insist on an ethnic entitlement apart from **FAITH** is to deny the very heart of the gospel.

† If you cannot see this, you do not understand the New Covenant. Jesus died to bring the **PROMISE** to every tribe and tongue through **FAITH**, not race.

† The prophets consistently warned that covenant blessing required covenant faithfulness, never mere ancestry (Amos 3:2).

Galatians 3:28-29

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are **ABRAHAM'S SEED**, and heirs according to the **PROMISE**.

† In Christ, every dividing wall falls. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

† The heirs of Abraham are those who belong to Christ. This is the true fulfillment of God's plan, a multi-ethnic, global family of **FAITH**.

† Unity in Christ destroys all social, ethnic, and gender barriers (Colossians 3:11).

† Every believer is an equal heir of eternal life, sharing the same Spirit and the same inheritance (Titus 3:7).

Application for Today

† There is no racial supremacy in the Kingdom of God. Salvation is by grace through **FAITH** in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

† Father Abraham always represented a chosen people based on **FAITH**, not race. God's **PROMISE** is fulfilled in Jesus, and everyone who believes becomes a full heir of that **PROMISE**.

† Our hope and identity are not tied to a piece of land or an earthly nation, but to the everlasting kingdom of Christ that was established in the first century and remains forever.

† We are called to walk in the same **FAITH** Abraham displayed, trusting God's **PROMISES** even when unseen (2 Corinthians 5:7).

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

Source Index

† Genesis 12:1-3; 15:6; 17:7-8; Deuteronomy 7:7-9; Matthew 21:43; John 8:39-40; Acts 3:25-26; Romans 2:28-29; 4:3-13; 9:6-8; Galatians 3:7, 16, 28-29; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 8:6-13; Hebrews 11:8-10; John 3:6-7; Colossians 3:11; Titus 3:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Josephus Antiquities 1.7, 1.13; Philo On Abraham 52-54; Clement of Rome 1 Clement 31; Epistle of Barnabas 6, 13; Justin Martyr Dialogue with Trypho 119; Irenaeus Against Heresies 4.21.1-3; Tertullian An Answer to the Jews 1-2; Origen Commentary on Romans Book 4

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